

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 194) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 8, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 24; and further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Dickson nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY for up to 75 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA WARD AND MEREDITH BOOKER

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise to recognize two members of my team who are leaving the Senate after their years of dedicated and important work. Becca Ward will be leaving on August 7, and Meredith Booker will be leaving on Friday, July 26.

Both of them joined my team as interns. They have worked their way up within Team Merkley and have made tremendous contributions to my office and to our Nation. I know they are both going to do extraordinary things in the next chapters of their lives, but, first, it is worth reflecting on their service in the U.S. Senate.

Becca Ward has been an invaluable member of our team for 6 years. She started as an intern in my Oregon office, and she worked her way up to be my lead adviser on climate chaos and energy policy. Becca joined Team Merkley as a full-time staff assistant in 2013. Over the years, she rose to be a

legislative correspondent and then a legislative aide. She drafted and sent responses to more than 225,000 Oregonians who were concerned about the climate and the environment.

Becca's terrific work made it clear that she was capable of more, so she became my top policy adviser on the threat of climate chaos. Climate chaos presents an existential threat to our planet. Her professionalism, her substantive expertise, her creativity, and the network she created proved to be powerful tools in our working to advance a progressive climate agenda.

When Becca first started working on climate change, she took the lead and the effort to protect the Arctic Ocean from oil and gas drilling, which led to the introduction of the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act. Over the course of her years on this portfolio, she has helped a lot with the mission 100 bill, which aims to transition the United States into a 100-percent clean energy economy, and with my Keep It in the Ground Act, which would stop the expansion of the leasing of our Federal publicly owned properties for the production of fossil fuels.

More recently, she has contributed by collating the Senate's version of the Green New Deal, which has set a high bar for progressive climate efforts in the future. Just last week, she led my staff through the introduction of the Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act—a bold, new bill that required extensive coordination between the environmental community and the labor community. It is designed to create good-paying, family-wage jobs and to have high labor standards—a race to the top in employment during the transition to clean energy.

Becca's efforts to take on the global challenge of climate chaos hasn't been limited to the United States. She has repeatedly traveled with me and on my behalf to U.N. Conference of the Parties meetings and to other international events to engage in the diplomacy that is necessary for a true global response to a global crisis. She has shepherded my efforts through the Appropriations Committee to maintain funding for climate programs and to introduce and pass bipartisan amendments that support the Green Climate Fund.

In addition to her substantive policy responsibilities, she has been an incredible team player and a remarkable individual to have with us. I think it is safe to say that Becca will likely go down in Team Merkley history as the only member of our team who is also an Olympic medalist. She has been a fantastic manager and mentor to the members of the climate team and has been a huge contributor to our office's efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work. I know her absence will be felt especially strongly every year when the annual cherry blossom run comes around.

Becca, you might need to plan a trip to DC for next spring.

While Becca is going to do incredible things for the planet in her next chapter of helping to expand a recently formed environmental organization, the Clean Energy Leadership Institute, she will be greatly missed here as a colleague, as a friend, and as a mentor to so many of us on the team.

We are counting on you, Becca, to save the planet, so no pressure. We appreciate your service to Oregon and to our country, and I look forward to hearing about your efforts in your journey ahead.

Now we turn to another member of Team Merkley, Meredith Booker, who is, sadly, leaving us in July—in fact, at the end of this week. Meredith embodies the heart and soul and work ethic of Team Merkley, and she will be sorely missed by everyone in the immigration, civil rights, housing, and LGBTQ rights portfolios.

Meredith joined our team as an intern in August of 2016 and quickly became indispensable, joining the legislative correspondent ranks in December of 2016.

In June of 2018, she was promoted to legislative aide and hasn't looked back, taking on more and more responsibility. She came into this position with a deep understanding and background in criminal justice and has brought a top-notch performance to every project and task she has touched. I think most of our office would agree. She is the best organized member of our team. Her meticulously crafted policy-tracker spreadsheet has helped our team stay on track in many areas and will remain a lasting part of her legacy here on Capitol Hill. It doesn't matter whether it is the smallest project or the biggest high-stakes moment, Meredith always gets it done and gets it done well.

This work ethic has extended from volunteering countless time to pitching in with coding parties. Coding parties are when the team stays late in the evening to work to try to have a prompt response to the thousands of letters we receive from Oregonians.

It stems from that to hustling to perfect every line and section of the 2019 Equality Act, resulting in a record of 47 Senate sponsors and bipartisan passage in the House of Representatives this May. That act has yet to be considered on the floor of the Senate, but it is way past time that we establish equality of opportunity for every single American.

Meredith skillfully navigated working with two different legislative assistants at times—and sometimes with one LA and sometimes with no LA—without letting a single decision, memo, or project fall through the cracks.

She managed reintroduction of the American Savings Act to expand high-quality retirement savings accounts to every American.

She managed our annual August Breastfeeding Month resolution to recognize the importance of breastfeeding